

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

COMMITTEES:
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CALIFORNIA WINE
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Assembly California Legislature



PATRICIA WIGGINS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

April 6, 2004

Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bear Mountain, aka Saddle Mountain, in Sonoma County

Dear Ms. Spellman:

I strongly support the proposal submitted by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to acquire and protect approximately 920 acres of Bear Mountain, also known as Saddle Mountain.

The particular parcel in question has great regional significance. Not only would its preservation maintain open space and separation between urban areas. That action would also provide spectacular recreational opportunities close to those urban areas and, potentially, trail connectivity to other protected lands. The property includes three tributaries to Mark West Creek, one of the last viable streams for salmon and steelhead populations, and one tributary to Santa Rosa Creek, the City of Santa Rosa's major waterway. Through the proposed acquisition, these significant wildlife corridors, along with their intact and species-rich ecosystems, would be protected.

I highly recommend your positive review of this Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District application for a \$1.2 million grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information about the importance of this particular acquisition.

Yours truly,

Patricia Wiggins
Assemblymember, Seventh District

PW: mer
cc: Amy Chestnut, Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation and Open Space District

STATE CAPITOL
☐ P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
(916) 319-2107 FAX
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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
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(707) 546-9031 FAX
☐ 640 TUOLUMNE STREET
SUITE B
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 649-2307
(707) 649-2311 FAX
☐ 1040 MAIN STREET
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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

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EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

February 20, 2004

California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

MAYENE SPELLMAN

Dear Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy,


I am writing in regards to a subdivision called Saddle Mountain being planned in the Mayacama Mountains just outside of Santa Rosa. This area is pristine and contains one of the last remaining natural waterways in Sonoma County-the Mark West Creek, a major tributary to the Russian River. These waterways, including 3 tributaries to the Mark West, are a rich spawning ground to the federally listed endangered steelhead, and also home to Coho salmon. Mountain lion, bear, bobcat, fox, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, giant salamanders and many other animals inhabit the area.

It is an untouched wilderness area that is also close to Hood Mountain, Sugarloaf and the McCormick Ranch. Residents of this area have grouped together to form the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. We envision habitat values such as the preservation of wildlife corridors, steelhead trout spawning streams and native trees and plants to take precedence over human encroachment in this region.

Currently, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District are negotiating to purchase this 1250 acre property. Other funding is desperately needed to complete the purchase and keep this wilderness area protected from development. I am writing in hopes that the California Coastal Conservancy will grant the funds needed to insure this property is Open Space forever.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Christine C. Peterson
5785 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Friends of Mark West Watershed

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, Ca 94612
Date: February 10, 2004

Dear Ms Spellman,

Madrone Audubon, the Sonoma County chapter of the National Audubon Society, strongly supports the preservation of the 1200 acre Saddle Mountain Ranch (SMR), located on the eastern boundary of Santa Rosa, by a joint effort of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the California Coastal Conservancy.

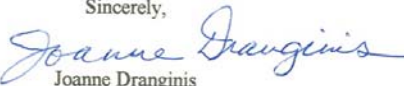
Mark West Creek and its tributaries, Weeks, Van Buren and Alpine, traverse the property and are part of the Russian River Drainage Basin. These creeks are known to provide valuable steelhead spawning habitat, and are in need of restorative measures to enhance the opportunity for the federally listed salmonids to complete their life cycle. The Ranch also contains diverse flora and fauna habitat types such as oak savannah, grassland, chaparral, mixed evergreen forest, and riparian. The acquisition of SMR would add to the nearly 5,000 acres of public land around Hood Mountain.

Saddle Mountain Ranch is under serious threat of development. Madrone Audubon filed an appeal in January, 2003, to stop a major large-lot subdivision from being approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The appeal was based on the County Planning Commission's approval of an extension of time for the project even though the EIR for the project was 25 years old, and contained major deficiencies. For example, no fish studies were incorporated into the EIR to assess impacts to the habitat. The appeal also noted that the property owner's tentative map had expired before the Planning Commission's hearing; and the project had not been sent to the state clearinghouse for circulation to appropriate agencies for comment, since 1982.

The Board of Supervisors held a hearing on the Madrone appeal in June, 2003, and at that time went ahead and approved the SMR subdivision. Friends of Mark West Watershed, a non-profit organization of friends, neighbors and other members of the community, have been working to find ways to save the property from the habitat degradation that will surely come with the onset of this building project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are very grateful for the Conservancy's interest.

Sincerely,


Joanne Dranginis
for Madrone Audubon Society

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

P. O. Box 1911 • SANTA ROSA CALIFORNIA 95402 • PH. 707.546.7492

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

PETITION TO ENCOURAGE THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE THE 1240 ACRE SADDLE MOUNTAIN RANCH PROPERTY 2300 Calistoga Road, Santa Rosa, Ca

We, the undersigned, recognize that the 1240 acre Saddle Mountain Ranch property, currently under consideration for development, is a rare, intact riparian ecosystem close to the city limits of Santa Rosa, containing features which contribute significantly to the health and beauty of our whole community. We envision the property attaining the status of a wildlife refuge, where habitat values such as the preservation of wildlife corridors, steelhead trout spawning streams, native trees and plants, take precedence over human encroachment. We ask that the SCAPOSD make every effort to acquire this property, designate it as a natural resource property, and place upon it a "Forever Wild" easement.

Name	Address	Signature	Date
Kate Wilson	6666 St. Helena Rd SR 95404	Kate Wilson	3/20/03
Ken Guido	4322 Panorama Dr.	Ken Guido	3/22/03
Mary Guido	4322 Panorama Dr	Mary Guido	3/22/03
MAURINE CAPLINGER	3847 OAK GLEN DR.	Maurine Caplinger	3/22/03
BRET RUSSELL	1316 BAIRD ROAD	Bret Russell	3/22/03
Darlene Russell	1316 Baird Rd	Darlene Russell	3/22/03
DEREK RUSSELL	3580 Greenhill Dr	Derek Russell	3/22/03
Caitanya Scott	1119 GLEN ST. SR 95401	Caitanya Scott	3/22/03
Casey Caplinger	7768 St Helena Rd SR	Casey Caplinger	3/22/03
Norman Smithbridge	7899 St. Helena Rd SR	Norman Smithbridge	3/24/03
Dorcas Barnett	7889 St Helena Rd SR	Dorcas Barnett	3/28/03
Jean Dranginis	661 Aurora Vista Dr. SR	Jean Dranginis	3/24/03
John Dranginis	3841 Oak Rd. D SR	John Dranginis	3/24/03
Elzer Dombrowsky	4311 Panorama Dr	Elzer Dombrowsky	3/24/03
Michael R. Doyle	4384 Panorama Drive	Michael R. Doyle	3/24/03
Bidie J. Palmer	2636 English Creek Rd.	Bidie J. Palmer	3/26/03
WILEY WADNER	2636 English Creek Rd	Wiley Wadner	3/26/03
Cathy McClure	1812 WOOD RD #B	Cathy McClure	3/26/03
Kent DeLoe	5324 Lakeview	Kent DeLoe	3/27/03
RAYMOND WALDBAUM	7945 ST. HELENA RD	Raymond Waldbaum	3/29/03
Laura Waldbaum	7945 St. Helena Rd	Laura Waldbaum	3/29/03
Michael DeAngelo	601 River Vista Dr SR	Michael DeAngelo	4/1/03
Nancy Bauer	5876 1/2 Line Dr. SR	Nancy Bauer	4/1/03
MARCIA BARLOW	409 Townsend #210	Marcia Barlow	4-1-03
MARILYN SCOTT	428 Hilsdale Dr SR 95409	M. Scott	4-2-03
Kathleen Angell	9533 Kristine Way Windsor	Kathleen Angell	4-2-03
Bryant Hitchwa	4100 Pressley Rd SR	Bryant Hitchwa	4/2/03
Janet Bosshard	1726 Janes, Santa Rosa	Janet Bosshard	4/2/03
Diane Hitchwa	4100 Pressley Rd SR	Diane Hitchwa	4/2/03
Veronica Bowers	8750 Elphick Rd Seb.	Veronica Bowers	4/2/03
Daphne Smith	1350 Spring St. SR	Daphne Smith	4/2/03
Joyce MacLaury	3680 Hemlock St Santa Rosa	Joyce MacLaury	4-2-03
Claire Shurinton	1436 Lawrence Way S.R. 01	Claire Shurinton	4-2-03
Sylvan Finkelman	2417 Trak Ct SR. 03	Sylvan Finkelman	4-2-03

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

February 16, 2004

California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Suite 1100
Oakland, CA
94612
attn: Maxene Spellman

Dear Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing in regards to a subdivision being planned in the Mayacama mountains just outside of Santa Rosa called Saddle Mountain. This area is pristine and contains one of the last remaining natural waterways in Sonoma County- the Mark West Creek, a major tributary to the Russian River. Our family has owned land in this area for over 60 years, and we believe in keeping the area as natural as possible.

These waterways, including 3 tributaries to the Mark West, are a rich spawning ground to the federally enlisted endangered steelhead, and also home to Coho salmon. Many other native animals inhabit the area. It is an untouched wilderness area that is also close to Hood Mountain, Sugarloaf and the McCormick Ranch.

Residents of this area have grouped together to form the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. We envision habitat values such as the preservation of wildlife corridors, steelhead trout spawning streams and native trees and plants to take precedence over human encroachment in this region.

Currently, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District are negotiating to purchase this 1250-acre property. Other funding is desperately needed to complete the purchase and keep this wilderness area protected from development. I am writing in hopes that the California Coastal Conservancy will grant the funds needed to insure this property is Open Space forever. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, *Elisabeth J. Hawthorne*

Elisabeth Hawthorne
707 433 5477

For Friends of the Mark West Watershed

cc. Open Space District
747 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA
95401
attn. Amy Chesnutt

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

COMMITTEES:
CHAIR
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CALIFORNIA WINE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
MEMBER
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APPROPRIATIONS
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VETERANS AFFAIRS

Assembly California Legislature



PATRICIA WIGGINS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

April 6, 2004

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(707) 649-2311 FAX
☐ 1040 MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
NAPA, CA 94559
(707) 258-8007
(707) 258-8205 FAX

Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bear Mountain, aka Saddle Mountain, in Sonoma County

Dear Ms. Spellman:

I strongly support the proposal submitted by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to acquire and protect approximately 920 acres of Bear Mountain, also known as Saddle Mountain.

The particular parcel in question has great regional significance. Not only would its preservation maintain open space and separation between urban areas. That action would also provide spectacular recreational opportunities close to those urban areas and, potentially, trail connectivity to other protected lands. The property includes three tributaries to Mark West Creek, one of the last viable streams for salmon and steelhead populations, and one tributary to Santa Rosa Creek, the City of Santa Rosa's major waterway. Through the proposed acquisition, these significant wildlife corridors, along with their intact and species-rich ecosystems, would be protected.

I highly recommend your positive review of this Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District application for a \$1.2 million grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information about the importance of this particular acquisition.

Yours truly,

Patricia Wiggins
Assemblymember, Seventh District

PW: mer
cc: Amy Chestnut, Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation and Open Space District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



Larry D. & Kelly J. Hansen
5702 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

2/5/04

California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Maxene Spellman
Re: Saddle Mountain

Dear Ms. Spellman:

I am writing in response to the attached letter and the Open Space Acquisition involved. We would love to see this go through.

My father-in-law used to attend school at the one room schoolhouse down the road. He and his brother used to hunt this valley when no one lived here. My husband has always lived on this land. I grew up in north Santa Rosa near 101, my cousins own a winery in Alexander Valley and I was in FFA! But my Dad and brother are both General Contractors. Conflicting?

We have not joined the pursuit against Merner's Saddle Mountain subdivision as Carl is a neighbor. We ourselves stand to make a fortune off our 40 acres (which have been split for years), but that would not be good land stewardship. We can't even bring ourselves to build a new house on a more suitable site because it would change the landscape. Our house is about 60-70 years old. This was the site of the stagecoach stop up here

We hike on Merner's land all the time. It is beautiful and pristine, there are fox and bobcat all the time. We have bears that come over from Sugarloaf. It is wild area up here. So many trees, even redwoods. We even have a mountain lion prowling the neighborhood. Bunnies, not just jackrabbits. We had a skunk walking down the middle of the road this morning at 6am. A great deal of water flows through that land which would be tainted by 25 septic fields. Please champion a contribution to keep this area pristine. When tax dollars are being wasted, it is good to see outside agencies working with government to establish something permanent in the agricultural arena. It's not a waste of money. Thank you for your work!

Sincerely,

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FEB 6 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

HON. PATRICIA A. GRAY (RET.)
7915 ST. HELENA ROAD
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE AND FACSIMILE (707) 539-2825

February 6, 2004

California Coastal Conservancy
Maxine Spellman
1330 Broadway Suite 1100
Oakland, CA
94612

Re: Acquisition of Saddle Mountain by Sonoma County Open Space

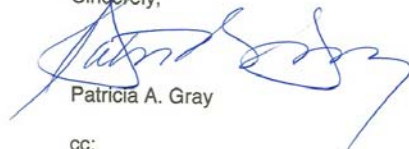
Dear Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing to support your contribution to Open Space for the purchase of Saddle Mountain in eastern Sonoma County. This large piece of land straddles almost 1200 acres on the ridge top west of Hood Mountain, McCormick Ranch and Sugarloaf Ridge, along the Mayacmas Mountain range. This area contains one of the last remaining natural waterways in Sonoma County- the Mark West Creek (including 3 tributaries) and is one of three major tributaries to the Russian River Basin. Saddle Mountain is located within the headwaters of the basin and so its future use impacts the region in many ways.

The watershed itself is home to nesting Peregrine Falcons and a rich spawning ground for Steelhead. State Fish & Game has identified the upper Mark West Creek in their strategy for recovery of Coho Salmon. Mountain lion, bear, bobcat, fox, song-birds, spotted owls, giant salamanders and many other forest animals inhabit the area.

Please consider my request that you support the acquisition of Saddle Mountain in order to preserve and protect it from development. Thank you for all the wonderful work that you fund to preserve California's diverse and extraordinary environmental treasures.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Gray

cc:
Sonoma County Open Space District
Amy Chestnut
747 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA
95401

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

State of California

Memorandum

To: Maxene Spellman
Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: February 19, 2004

From: Robert W. Floerke, Regional Manager 
Department of Fish and Game - Central Coast Region, Post Office Box 47, Yountville, California 94599

Subject: Bear Mountain (AKA Saddle Mountain), Sonoma County - Grant Funding

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is seeking grant funding from the Coastal Conservancy for acquisition of the Bear Mountain property (AKA Saddle Mountain) to the northwest of Santa Rosa between St. Helena Road and Calistoga Road. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) supports this acquisition. DFG personnel have walked much of this property and found it to be a particularly high value wildlife area located in the headwaters of Mark West Creek and Santa Rosa Creek, both of which support populations of threatened steelhead trout. The Bear Mountain property supports a complex diversity of plant communities and habitat types, including grasslands, oak woodlands, mixed evergreen forest, and redwood forest. This diversity of habitat types, all relatively undisturbed, in turn supports a wide range of wildlife.

The size of this property, approximately 1,000 acres, its relatively undisturbed character, and the proximity to nearby Hood Mountain Regional Park and Annadel, Sugarloaf Ridge and Bothe-Napa State Parks, presents a rare opportunity to maintain a large natural community within central Sonoma County and in close proximity to the urban area of Santa Rosa.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Cox Associate Fisheries Biologist, at (707) 823-1001; or Jim Swanson, Supervising Biologist, at (707) 944-5528.

cc: Amy Chesnut
Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation and Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4850

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Pitkin Lily



California Native Plant Society
Milo Baker Chapter

March 11, 2004

Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Bear Mountain (a.k.a. Saddle Mountain) Project

Dear Ms. Spellman,

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a science-based non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora, with about 10,000 members statewide. The Milo Baker Chapter represents 600 members in Sonoma County and South Lake County. In addition to advocating for the conservation of native plants and their habitat, Chapter volunteers provide monthly educational meetings open to the public, field trips, native plant sales, and scientific data and recommendations to public agencies on local flora issues.

We are writing to encourage the California State Coastal Conservancy to support the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District purchase of the property known as Bear Mountain, northeast of Santa Rosa. This 920-acre property is currently in its natural state and supports a rich diversity of plant and animal life. The varied topography, rare and diverse plant communities, and watershed tributaries of this property offer huge benefits to the surrounding community, wildlife, and water quality.

This acquisition would provide the permanent protection of species-rich, complex, and varied ecosystems. Plant communities on the property include native grasslands, oak woodland, chaparral, mixed evergreen forest, and redwood forest. These communities have suffered high cumulative losses in the area. Several rare plant communities also occur on the project site, including

CNPS, Milo Baker Chapter, P.O. Box 892, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Sedge, Foothill Needlegrass, Leather Oak, and Sargent Cypress. A designated vernal pool on the property supports the rare Lobb's buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*). Sonoma ceanothus (*Ceanothus sonomensis*) occurs here in serpentine chaparral, a unique plant community that supports several endemic species.

As the population and housing densities grow in Sonoma County, the need becomes even greater to provide recreational opportunities close to urban areas while protecting our scenic views and natural resources. The striking beauty of Bear Mountain and its prominence in the landscape is a great asset to the citizens of Sonoma County and the State of California. This acquisition will provide healthy recreational opportunities for the public, with potential trail connectivity to other protected lands. The project will protect valuable wildlife corridors, including key north-south linkages along the Mayacamas Mountain Range.

This acquisition is an excellent opportunity to protect a valuable property with a rich diversity of plants and wildlife, rare species and rare plant communities, by preventing its development into 30 estate lots. The landowners in this part of the Mark West Creek Watershed have historically used good land-use management practices. Weeks Creek and Van Buren Creek have been identified as high priority areas for native fish habitat. The permanent protection of these and the other tributaries will contribute to better water quality for the Russian River Drainage Basin, the county's urban source of domestic water.

We urge the California State Coastal Conservancy to support the Bear Mountain/Saddle Mountain acquisition for the Sonoma County Open Space District. The rare and limited-distribution plants and the animals they support are unique to this region and worth preserving for present and future generations. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Reny Parker
Chapter President



Lynn Houser
Chapter Conservation Chair

Cc: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Sonoma Co. Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD)

Diane Hichwa, Madrone Audubon Society

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MAR 15 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



California Regional Office
201 Mission Street, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

tel [415] 777.0487
fax [415] 777.0244
[415] 777.0772
nature.org

August 19, 2004

Maxene Spellman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612.

RE: Bear Mountain - Letter of Support

Dear Maxene,

This letter is written in support of current efforts to protect Bear Mountain in Sonoma County. This project is a unique opportunity to purchase approximately 960 acres of habitat rich lands located immediately north of the City of Santa Rosa limits. Due to its size, location, visibility, water resources, and habitat characteristics, this regionally significant project satisfies multiple objectives including:

- a) Preservation of open space and separation between urban areas.
- b) Spectacular recreational opportunities close to urban areas.
- c) Permanent protection of three tributaries to Mark West Creek, one of the last viable streams for salmon and steelhead populations; and one tributary to Santa Rosa Creek, the City of Santa Rosa's major waterway.
- d) Potential trail connectivity to other protected lands.
- e) Permanent protection of a broad and varied wildlife corridor, currently inhabited by mountain lion, bear and other large mammals.
- f) Permanent protection of varied, complex, intact, species-rich ecosystems.
- g) Permanent protection of a major scenic viewshed, enjoyed by tens of thousands of citizens each day.

This property was identified as a high priority in The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Plan for Sonoma County for its' regional significance. We hope that you will support this important protection effort.

Sincerely,

Wendy Millet

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AUG 23 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

*Linda Sartor Ph.D.
7899 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa CA 95404
(707) 538-5123
lsartor@inreach.com*

Dear Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing in regards to a subdivision being planned in the Mayacama mountains just outside of Santa Rosa called Saddle Mountain. This area is pristine and it is my understanding that it contains one of the last remaining natural waterways in Sonoma County- the Mark West Creek, a major tributary to the Russian River.

These waterways, including 3 tributaries to the Mark West, are a rich spawning ground to the federally enlisted endangered steelhead, and also home to Coho salmon. Mountain lion, bear, bobcat, fox, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, giant salamanders and many other species inhabit the area. It is an untouched wilderness area that is a treasure to Sonoma County.

Currently, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District are negotiating to purchase this 1250-acre property. Other funding is desperately needed to complete the purchase and keep this wilderness area protected from development. I am writing to add my voice to the request to the California Coastal Conservancy to grant the funds needed to insure this property is Open Space forever. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Linda Sartor

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FEB 10 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Griffin W. Okie
5515 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404
(707) 537-9001

Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, Ca 94612
Date: February 11, 2004

Dear Ms Spellman,

I am writing to support the efforts to purchase the 1200 acre parcel in Eastern Santa Rosa, called Saddle Mountain Ranch. Being a resident of this area, I am amazed at how pristine and wild this area is, yet we are a mere four miles to the center of Rincon Valley, on highway 12. The degree of wilderness that still exists up on this beautiful ridge is astounding: we have tapes of last year's Steelhead spawning in the upper reaches of Mark West Creek. My neighbor had a Peregrine Falcon fly into her living room (it escaped unharmed), and in January of 2000, there were 13 huge Coho Salmon under our bridge over the Mark West Creek. These three endangered species are reason enough to preserve what we can of this area.

The fact that Sonoma County and the developer have gone forward with poor or no studies (the EIR on this development is 25 years old!) is a serious indication of how determined people are to continue the fanatical growth of this county, at the expense of our wild lands and precious rare plants and animals. I am hopeful that your agency, will step in to help The Open Space District fund the purchase of this irreplaceable land.

If you or any of your colleagues would like a tour of this ridge (without trespassing) please call me and I will provide you a spectacular few hours.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,


Griffin W. Okie

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



OAK SPRINGS RANCH

February 20, 2004

MAYENE SPENLANN

Dear Board of Directors of the California Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing in regards to a subdivision being planned in the Mayacama mountains just outside of Santa Rosa called Saddle Mountain. This area is pristine and contains one of the last remaining natural waterways in Sonoma County- the Mark West Creek, a major tributary to the Russian River.

These waterways, including 3 tributaries to the Mark West ,are a rich spawning ground to the federally enlisted endangered steelhead and Coho salmon. Mountain lion, bear, bobcat, fox, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, giant salamanders and many other critters inhabit the area. It is an untouched wilderness area that is also close to Hood Mountain, Sugarloaf and the McCormick Ranch.

Residents of this area have grouped together to form the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. We envision habitat values such as the preservation of wildlife corridors, steelhead trout spawning streams and native trees and plants to take precedence over human encroachment in this region.

Currently, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District are negotiating to purchase this 1250-acre property. Other funding is desperately needed to complete the purchase and keep this wilderness area protected from development. I am writing in hopes that the California Coastal Conservancy will grant the funds needed to insure this property is Open Space forever. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Milberg

Sandra

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FEB 23 2004

2455 Calistoga Road, Santa Rosa, California 95404 (707) 539-2414

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

Saving America's Lion

September 1, 2004

Maxene Spellman
Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for \$1.2 million grant request from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to acquire and protect important mountain lion habitat.

Dear Ms. Spellman,

The Mountain Lion Foundation happily supports the acquisition of this valuable mountain lion habitat located north of the city of Santa Rosa and we strongly urge you to grant the District's request for funding.

I'm personally familiar with the property under consideration. A little over a year ago, MLF's wildlife biologist and I visited the property in response to a request from the landowner for help in dealing with the resident mountain lion.

As the outskirts of Santa Rosa expand on the other side of the mountain, destroying or fragmenting historic wildlife habitat, the deer herds are frequenting the property in greater numbers and subsequently attracting mountain lions.

One lion in particular kept visiting the landowner's barn as it provided an ideal observation and hunting location for the deer that watered in the nearby stream.

Property of this size and location are invaluable in maintaining the connectivity that is imperative for maintaining sustainable mountain lion populations.

Once again I urge your support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Tim Dunbar
Associate Director

P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento • California 95812 • (916) 442-2666 • (916) 442-2871 fax
mlf@mountainlion.org • www.mountainlion.org

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



August 31, 2004

Maxene Spellman
San Francisco Bay Program
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Ms. Spellman:

LandPaths enthusiastically supports the acquisition of the 960-acre Bear Mountain Property. The property is, essentially, a wilderness area tucked into basins and sub-ridges that quite literally tower directly over urban Santa Rosa as part of the Mayacamas Mountains. I have read with great interest various staff reports provided by the District and State Coastal Conservancy, and heartily agree with *all* of the reasons stated for preservation of the property.

True, it is as adjacent to urbanized Santa Rosa as any parkland I have ever encountered in the state. Owing to that and that alone, spotted owls have been heard from residences in Santa Rosa's Rincon Valley, bobcats can be seen hunting in the open grassland on the property and oaks greatly outnumber signs of human habitation there as seen from downtown Santa Rosa. I am fortunate, as a partner to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, to have toured the property with its current owners and District staff. I was more than impressed by the quality and diversity of woodland types, great abundance of bird species, opportunities for 'backcountry' type recreational experiences so close to an urban area, vistas in *every* direction and the vastness of headwater watersheds contained therein.

That the property has potential trail connectivity (and therefore wildlife corridor connectivity) to other protected lands is almost an afterthought given the property's characteristics as mentioned above.

I offer a full endorsement of the Bear Mountain acquisition and thank the State Coastal Conservancy for considering this project.

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

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